

Mayor Charles "Skip" Lee called a meeting of the Sterling City Council to order at 6:30 pm on Monday, August 15, 2016. Roll call. Present: Aldermen Retha Elston, Joe Martin, Chris Schuchard, John Stauter, and Chris Wilen. Absent: Alderman Bob Conklin.

Also present were City Attorney Tim Zollinger, City Manager Scott Shumard, Finance Director Cindy Von Holten, Superintendent of Building and Zoning, Fire Chief Gary Cook, Police Chief Tim Morgan, , and City Clerk Marie Rombouts.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Misty Hacker, 2310 Spring Street, reported water in her yard and large sink holes. Eight years ago this area was dredged and it helped for a while. Manager Shumard stated dredging can only help so much. The storm water plan calls for a detention pond at Sanborn Park.

Alderman Elston made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

- A) Approval of Minutes from August 1, 2016
- B) Approval of Bills and Payroll in the amount of \$670,277.00
- C) Partial Pay Request #13 to Martin Company in the amount of \$142,192.20 for work at Plant 1
- D) Bucket Brigade for Sterling Fire Fighters IAFF #2301 on August 27, 2016, to raise funds for the Muscular Dystrophy Association

The motion was seconded by Alderman Stauter. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Schuchard, Stauter, and Wilen. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Wilen made a motion to approve Mayor Lee's recommendations to appoint Doug Freed to the Plan Commission to complete an unexpired term until June 30, 2018, and reappoint Eric Larson and Steve Munson to three-year terms, expiring June 30, 2019, on the Plan Commission; seconded by Alderman Martin. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Schuchard, Stauter, and Wilen. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Chief Morgan made a presentation on the "Community Dog" program. Chief Morgan explained this is one of the programs he has suggested and is hoping to develop relationships in the community. Morgan introduced Sue Jakobs, a local dog trainer.

Sue Jakobs explained the types of dogs. Therapy Dogs are not public; they can be used in hospitals. Professional/Working Dogs would be the category that incorporates the "Community Dog" with limited public access. The third classification is Service Dog,

which has public access. Jakobs shared several pictures of working dogs and explained how they affect situations and people.

Morgan stated that his long-term goal is for any officer, wanting to participate, will have access to the dog. Morgan introduced Johanna Hager with April House. Hager reported that many facilities have dogs because they help families relax.

Morgan hopes to have the program run on public funding and/or donations. The dog would be well bred with a health guarantee. Cost would be approximately \$3000 with training from Jakobs at an extremely reduced rate. It would probably be a Golden Lab type of mix.

Alderman Martin asked what kind of time frame is expected. Jakobs stated that training could begin at eight weeks and depending on handlers could be completely ready in 12 to 18 months.

Clerk Rombouts announced that petitions can start to be circulated for Alderman-at-Large on August 30. The filing period is November 21 – 28. Any referendum questions need to be filed with the County Clerk by January 17, 2017. Primary election is February 28, 2017, if more than nine people have filed papers. The Consolidated Election is April 4, 2017.

Manager Shumard stated that Northern Illinois Water Company is progressing on East Third Street and a new Superintendent will be hired shortly. Work should begin on the Safe Routes to School trail by the Sterling Park District. Meetings have started with the Rural Fire District. Shumard also distributed an article on pension woes and the low rate of return on investments. Shumard warned the Council that the Tax Levy will be tough again this year because of the pensions.

Alderman Elston regretted that the summer movies and concerts were done for the season.

Mayor Lee thanked Janna Groharing with Sterling Main Street for her dedication to the community. Manager Shumard echoed that sentiment and explained how difficult it can be to round up and organize volunteers.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:24 pm.

Marie Rombouts  
City Clerk